

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on  
Monday 17 December 2018 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllr D Sim (in the Chair), P Argyle, N Bettinson, G Gilmour, J Haile, T Kelly, F Kennedy, J Mellor, D Millington, C Robson & the Clerk

In attendance: Cllr C Whiteside, County Councillor Egremont North/St Bees  
Mr K Murphy, West Cumbria Mining

Also present: 3 members of the public

**202/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs M Riley, J Lockie & H Monaghan.

**203/18 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

**204/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No issues were raised.

**205/18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2018**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 19 November be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**206/18 CCC & HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

It was RESOLVED to bring forward this item on the agenda.

Cllr Whiteside reported that a consultation had begun on the amended planning application from West Cumbria Mining for a new mine. It was likely that the application would be considered by Development Control Committee on 22 February.

Cllr Whiteside explained that some £840K of the additional funding made available by central government for highways work would be allocated to Copeland. He proposed that a meeting take place early in the new year with Highways and the Parish Council representatives to look at local priorities if funds did become available. He confirmed that work on the road surface of the B5345 around Abbey Corner would definitely be going ahead. The 'no footway' signs on Abbey Rd would be erected shortly. It was noted that potholes on Sea Mill Lane had been filled and councillors asked Cllr Whiteside to pass on the council's thanks for the prompt response.

**Cllr Whiteside then left the meeting.**

**207/18 WEST CUMBRIA MINING**

The Chairman welcomed Kevin Murphy of West Cumbria Mining who had offered to come and explain the background to the company's amended planning application. Mr Murphy explained that the original plan had been to de-water and re-use the old anhydrite mine but the County Council, Environment Agency and Natural England had indicated that sampling would first need to be carried out over a 12 month period and this would have significantly delayed the planning application. Instead it was now planned to create new tunnels above the anhydrite mine so no de-watering would be required. The reject material brought out when mining the coal would go back underground as a paste. The plant necessary for this process would be located within the dome and there would be no changes to the infrastructure above ground. West Cumbria Mining believed that they had now met all the requirements of CCC and other agencies and were hopeful that the amended application would be approved in February. If approval was given, it was anticipated that further surveys and remediation work would be needed at the Marchon site and it would be late 2021 or early 2022 before the first coal was mined.

In answer to questions Mr Murphy stated that the economic viability of the project remained unchanged. He confirmed that the only water which would run into Pow Beck was surface water running off the buildings. This would be treated as necessary and discharges would be overseen by CCC officers.

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He explained that a Section 106 agreement would provide various schemes to compensate for loss of amenity at the Marchon site. It was expected that the agreement would include footpath schemes and some highway improvements and CCC had also requested that cycle access be allowed from Mirehouse to the new sidings and that the company did not impede future development of a cycle track further down the valley.

Councillors expressed disappointment that there had been such a lengthy delay in the County Council's consideration of the planning application. The project offered new employment opportunities and would be of great benefit to the local economy. It was noted that the consultation period would run until 28 January and there would be an opportunity for the Parish Council to formulate its response at its January meeting.

Mr Murphy then left the meeting.

### **208/18 HIGHWAYS ENGLAND CONSULTATION**

It was noted that Highways England staff had declined the invitation to visit St Bees to see the effects on the village of drivers avoiding congestion on the A595. A draft response from the Parish Council to the consultation had been circulated for approval. It was noted that individuals could also submit comments and an item had been put in the last parish magazine to encourage as many residents as possible to respond to the consultation.

It was RESOLVED to approve the draft response and supporting information.

### **209/18 CASUAL VACANCY**

One expression of interest had been received in the vacancy created by Dr Smart's resignation.

It was RESOLVED that Claire Hale be co-opted as a Parish Councillor to serve until the election in May 2019.

### **210/18 ST BEES SCHOOL**

Cllr Kelly explained that term had now ended. A carol service had been held in the School Chapel on 11 December to which local residents had been invited. This had been a great success and the School hoped to organise other events with the village.

The Trustees had now put Grindal House on the market in order to help them meet their financial commitment to the new school.

### **211/18 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT**

#### **(a) Finance Report**

The summary of accounts at 30 November was received and noted.

#### **(b) Budget 2019/2020 – 2021/22**

The notes of the FRAG meeting on 6 December were received together with a draft 3 year budget. The rents to be charged for allotments were discussed and it was noted that it had been agreed in principle at a previous meeting to change the due date for rent from January to April.

It was RESOLVED that allotment rents be unchanged for 2019/20 and that rent would be payable in April 2019 with tenants being given a rent-free period from Jan to March 2019.

It was further RESOLVED that the draft budget be approved (copy attached to the minutes) and that the precept for 2019/20 be set at £ 42368 (an increase of approx. 5p per week on a Band D property).

#### **(d) Payments**

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq no 002479 G Gilmour – reimbursement for Christmas tree Total £75.00
- Chq no 002480 D Sim – reimbursement for tree lights £12.49 + £2.50 VAT Total £14.99
- Chq no 002481 YNH Ltd – renewal fees for stbees.org.uk Total £ 105.95
- Chq no 002482 HMRC – PAYE Qtr 3 Total £269.60
- Chq no 002483 J Donaldson – reimbursement for trees/and sundries £144.13 + £27.63 VAT, printer ink charge Nov £6.66 +£1.33 VAT, renewal of anti-virus software £39.16+ £7.83 VAT, stationery £5.74 + £1.15 VAT Total £233.63

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- Chq no 002484 J Donaldson – salary (net) Dec- £648.46
- Chq no 002485 CPRE – annual subscription Total £36.00
- Chq no 002486 Unipar Services LLP -recalibration of speed gun £223.00 + £44.60 VAT Total £267.60
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd -toilet service (Dec) £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (to be paid by SO)

### **Payments since last meeting to report**

- Chq 002474 St Bees Village Hall Comm – donation £575.00 (agreed at last meeting)
- Chq 002475 St Bees PCC – donation to parish magazine £700.00 (agreed at last meeting)
- Chq 002476 Royal British Legion – donation £150.00 (agreed at last meeting)
- Chq 002477 C Lewis – donation to RNLI carol concert £100.00 (agreed at last meeting)
- Chq 002478 Ink Design Print Cumbria -printing photos £42.00 + £8.40 Vat Total £50.40 (payment due before next meeting)
- Water Plus- water/wastewater to toilets £384.64 (paid by direct debit on 5 December)
- Water Plus- allotment water Total £81.78 (paid by direct debit on 11 December)
- Answer 4 You – answering service £8.80 + £1.76 VAT Total £10.56 (to be paid by DD on 17 December)

## **212/18 PROJECT REPORTS**

### **(a)Beach Regeneration**

CLr Argyle had met Tom Milburn to look at the work required to fit splashbacks in the ladies toilets to prevent damage to the plaster behind the sinks. Mr Milburn had agreed that his staff would be able to undertake this work. Quotes were now needed for cleaning the ceilings and it was agreed to advertise this opportunity via Facebook to obtain competitive quotes.

### **(b)Traffic Calming/Speedwatch**

CLr Millington explained that he had so far been unable to contact PC Turnbull about his offer of help in dealing with speeding traffic in St Bees but would continue to try to make contact with him.

### **(c)Community Events**

The Santa Parade and switch-on of the tree lights on 4 December were reviewed. It was noted that the event had attracted a large crowd on Cross Hill and the carol concert at the Lifeboat station later that evening had been very well attended. It was agreed that a meeting of all those involved should be organised in summer 2019 to plan for next year's event and to appoint an event co-ordinator.

### **(d) Tree Planting**

More trees would be planted at the Adams Ground shortly. Trees had been planted by the pupils at St Bees School to mark the re-opening of the School.

### **(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Track**

There was no further progress to report at this stage, although it was noted that the Section 106 agreement associated with the West Cumbria Mining planning application did offer some prospect of progress.

### **(f) Priory Paddock Pond Project**

There was no further progress to report.

### **(g) Public Access Defibrillators**

It was expected that the second defibrillator would be installed at the top of Sea Mill Lane very shortly.

### **(h) Station Car Park Extension**

There had been no further progress.

**213/18 VILLAGE IN BLOOM**

Cllr Gilmour had met representatives of Village in Bloom to discuss the issue of low volunteer numbers and the need for a new base and had provided a written report of the discussions. The Clerk had made some initial enquiries about requirements for planning consent for a new base. Cllr Gilmour would continue to liaise with VIB representatives to identify their space requirements.

**214/18 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Gilmour gave a verbal report on the recent meeting of West Copeland Partnership when Jamie Reed had given a presentation on Sellafield Ltd's socio-economic strategy. It was suggested that both the proposed cycle track and the extension of Station car park would potentially fit the criteria for support under the socio-economic programme.

It was RESOLVED to contact Jamie Reed to seek his advice on how to put forward these projects for consideration for support.

**215/18 PLANNING****(a) New Planning Applications**

One application had been received for consideration since the last meeting:

- Ref 4/18/2523/0F1 Erection of steel framed agricultural building to cover manure storage area Springbank Farm, Egremont

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application.

**(b) Applications approved by CBC**

- 4/18/2440/0F1 Two storey extension & balcony to rear and parking area to front (resubmission) -Bankside, Sea Mill Lane
- 4/18/2458/0O1 Outline application for single dwelling with all matters reserved – Plot 2 Wyndhowe, Sea Mill Lane

**216/18 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's report on on-going matters was received. It was noted that the water quality at St Bees beach had been rated as excellent by DEFRA.

A local resident had offered to help with walking local rights of way to identify problems if this would be helpful to the Parish Council. It was agreed to take up this offer of help.

**217/18 CBC ISSUES**

Cllr Hill had provided a series of updates on CBC activities which had been circulated to councillors by email.

**218/18 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER**

No report had been received.

**219/18 CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) An update had been received from Northern Gas Networks on their recent consultation with stakeholders. Noted.

(b) Information had been received from CALC about a consultation by DEFRA on the future governance and funding of protected landscapes such as National Parks, AONBs etc. The consultation was due to end on 18 Dec. Noted

(c) Information had been received from CALC on the review of Cumbria Coastal Strategy being led by CCC. A number of drop-in events had been organised around the county and responses would be fed into a draft plan to be compiled in early 2019. This would be subject to public consultation in summer 2019. Links to the reports had been circulated to councillors by email.

(d) A letter had been received from the Ladies Guild of the RNLI thanking the Parish Council for its donation towards the costs of refreshments for the carol concert on 4 December. The event had raised over £600 for RNLI funds. Noted.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- NW Coastal Access Update November
- NALC Weekly Newsletters November/Dec
- CALC Newsletter November
- Full Circle weekly newsletters
- Copeland Matters December
- OSS members ezine Dec 18
- Action for Health Network bulletin 29 Nov & 3 Dec
- FLAG newsletter Dec 18

**220/18 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on MONDAY 21 JANUARY 2019 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....